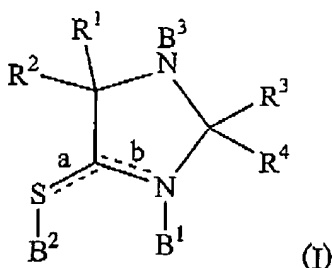


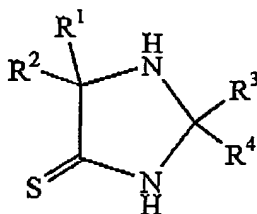
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making a compound of formula (I)



wherein bonds a and b are single or double bonds, provided that one of a and b is a single bond and the other is a double bond; one of B<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>2</sup> is ~~—CHR<sup>5</sup>—CHR<sup>6</sup>—C(Y)ZR<sup>7</sup> or hydrogen~~ and the other is absent; B<sup>3</sup> is ~~—C(W)NHR<sup>8</sup> or hydrogen~~; ~~provided that one of B<sup>1</sup>, B<sup>2</sup> and B<sup>3</sup> is not hydrogen~~; R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, or R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, combine with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form an alkyl or alkenyl ring; provided that at least three of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; Y and W are is O or S; Z is O, S or NR<sup>9</sup>; R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; ~~and R<sup>8</sup> is alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl~~;

said method comprising adding to an imidazolidinethione having formula



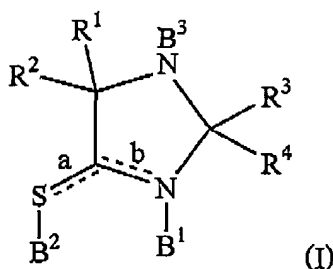
one of (i)  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{Y})\text{ZR}^7$ ; and (ii)  $\text{R}^8\text{N}-\text{C}-\text{W} \text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{Y})\text{ZR}^7$  to form a reaction mixture; wherein the reaction mixture is substantially free of solvent.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$   $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$  is added to the imidazolidinethione;  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen; and  $\text{R}^6$  is hydrogen or methyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising an alkali metal carbonate in an amount less than 10 mole % relative to  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$   $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ .

Claim 4 has been canceled.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for making a compound of formula (I)

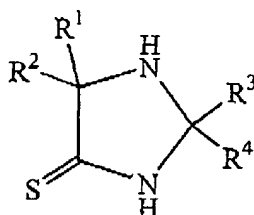


wherein bonds a and b are single or double bonds, provided that one of a and b is a single bond and the other is a double bond; one of  $\text{B}^1$  and  $\text{B}^2$  is  $-\text{CHR}^5-\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{Y})\text{ZR}^7$ ,  $-\text{CR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}-\text{NHR}^{12}$  or hydrogen and the other is absent;  $\text{B}^3$  is  $-\text{C}(\text{W})\text{NHR}^8$  or hydrogen; provided that one of  $\text{B}^1$ ,  $\text{B}^2$  and  $\text{B}^3$  is not hydrogen;  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; or  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$ , or  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$ , combine with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form an alkyl or alkenyl ring; provided that at least three of  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl;  $\text{Y}$  and  $\text{W}$  are  $\text{O}$  or  $\text{S}$ ;  $\text{Z}$  is  $\text{O}$ ,  $\text{S}$  or  $\text{NR}^9$ ;  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$  alkyl;  $\text{R}^6$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$  alkyl;  $\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  are independently

hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; and  $R^8$  and  $R^{12}$  independently are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl;

said method comprising steps of:

(a) preparing an imidazolidinethione having formula



by combining a cyanide source, a sulfide salt, and at least one ketone or aldehyde;

and (b) adding to the imidazolidinethione, without isolation of the imidazolidinethione, one of (i)  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ ; (ii)  $\text{R}^{10}\text{R}^{11}\text{C}=\text{O}$  and  $\text{R}^{12}\text{NH}_2$ ; (iii)  $\text{R}^{10}\text{R}^{11}\text{C}=\text{NR}^{12}$ ; and (iv)  $\text{R}^8\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{W}$   $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ .

Claim 6 has been canceled.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 in which  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$   $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$  is added to the imidazolidinethione;  $R^5$  is hydrogen; and  $R^6$  is hydrogen or methyl.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.